House and discuss with them individually and collectively and come to some conclusions.

Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Relief to Central Government Pensioners

*262. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government pensioners have been given a raw deal following recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering extension of remedial measures therefor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. In fact, the pensionary benefits in respect of the Central Government employees have been substantially liberalized keeping in view the recommendations of the Vth Pay Commission.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Regularisation of Contract Labourers

*265. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any direction has been issued by the Union Government to all the Ministries/State Governments/PSUs/Banks/Financial Institutions and other Government Organisations to regularise the services of contract labourers on permanent basis engaged for sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of office premises in the light of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement dated the 6th

December, 1996 in case of Air India Corporation Ltd. Versus United Labour Union and others;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) total number of contract labourers that have been regularised on permanent basis, so far, in Public Sector Undertakings in light of Supreme Court judgement?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 6.12.96 in the case of Air India Statutory Corporation Vs. United Labour Union is the established law under Article 141 of the Constitution. It was published in 1997 LLR 288 and AIR 1997 SC 645. The implications of the judgement were examined in consultation with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and directions were issued to the enforcement agency of Ministry of Labour of strictly implement the judgement in its letter and spirits.

The information about the regularised contract workers by different ministries, departments etc., is not maintained centrally. However, as per available reports, 2978 workers have been regularised in two major Central Public Sector Undertakings.

Legislation for Minimum Age-Limit

†*266. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Govt. propose to bring a legislation to fix the minimum age-limit for employment; and

(b) if so, by when Govt. propose to bring the legislation in this regard so that incidence of Child Labour can be curbed?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Govt. is considering to enact a Central legislation fixing a minimum age for admission to employment and work. Inter-ministerial consultation is in progress and on arriving at a consensus, a Bill to this effect will be introduced in the Parliament.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.